

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 21, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 2 and 16 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 stand withdrawn from further consideration in this application.

Additional Amendments

The specification is being amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Objections or Rejections

Claims 2 and 16 were objected to for formal errors, for which the Examiner outlined and proposed changes to address such formal errors. Otherwise, the Examiner noted that prosecution on the merits was closed under *Ex parte Quayle* pending the amendment of the claims to address the formal objections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration. Applicants will address the withdrawal and/or cancellation of the non-elected claims pending the Examiner's issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

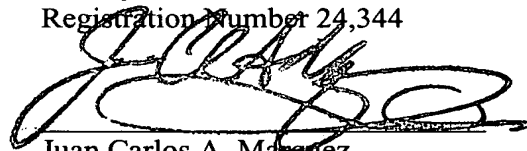
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art as a whole. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Carlos A. Marquez', is written over a horizontal line.

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